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Evaluation of Agricultural Cooperatives Functions in Teff Seed Supply, Case of Bacho Waliso Farmers Union, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia

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The study is on the Evaluation of agricultural cooperative functions in teff seed supply, the case of Bacho waliso farmers' cooperative Union and two primary cooperatives. The aim of this paper is to analyze the cooperative functions and supply of agricultural input specially teff seed for farmers, with a view of assessing the system and potential of agricultural cooperatives on the provision of teff seed through different channel to the rural poor.

The study used qualitative and quantitative approach by means of structured interview with individual farmers who are directly benefited from cooperative. The cooperative sector as the basic data gathering tool followed by interviews with leaders and officials in selected cooperative societies and concerned bodies at different levels and focus group discussions with a view to illuminate on the finding from the secondary data reviews.

The selected case study cooperatives organization have been focused on teff seed supply on rural farmers. The cooperatives are responsible to supply agricultural inputs particularly teff seed. Access to market and better price to their members and non-members, by strengthening the linkage among cooperatives in the study area, are also expected. Cooperatives, requires capacity building, adequate training and education and in addition collaborate to other cooperatives operating under similar conditions. Also important.

However, the potentials of the cooperatives and the extent of their development have fallen short of success due to low standard among performance, narrow scope of services, poor management, financial limitations, and lack of coordinated work of stakeholders. Finding from agricultural cooperative functions in teff seed supply helps to establish efficient network among cooperatives and support target primary cooperatives and union by making them more aware in functioning to farmers.